12-29-99

Af 1713

PATENTS
2543-28-93

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :)
Duvall *et al*)
Serial No. 09/098,758)
Filed: June 17, 1998)
For: **Synergistic Blend of a Metal-Based**)
Stabilizer or Lewis Acid and a Free Mercaptan)
for Enhanced PVC Stabilization)

Group Art Unit: 1713
Examiner: P. Mulcahy

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 12/28/99

Signature Date of signature Dec 28, 99

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.111

Dear Sir:

This application has been reconsidered carefully in the light of the Office Action mailed October 14, 1999. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in the light of the following amendments and remarks is requested respectfully.

In the claims:

1(amended). A composition [comprising] consisting essentially of a halogen-containing polymer, a free mercaptan and between about 0.005 and 0.5 %, based on the weight of the polymer, of zinc chloride. [at least one stabilizer selected from the group consisting of a metal-based stabilizer and a Lewis acid.]

Cancel claims 4 and 5.

REMARKS

The provisional election to prosecute claims 1-9 of the application is confirmed.

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-9 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the teachings of Kugele *et al* is deemed to be obviated by the foregoing amendments. As indicated by the Examiner's exclusion of claims 4 and 5, which are directed to zinc compounds as stabilizers, Kugele *et al* does not teach that a halogen-containing polymer may be stabilized against heat by zinc chloride or any other zinc compound.

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kugele *et al* is also deemed obviated by said amendments. Only organotin compounds are taught by that reference to be stabilizers for PVC and like polymers. It has been recognized in the art that organotin compounds and zinc compounds are two different classes of stabilizers. A teaching of one would not suggest that the other would also qualify as a stabilizer at the same concentrations or in similar formulations.